

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAM-01 OPIC-03 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-02 /085 W

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R 081656Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2419

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2017

PASS USIA IWE GAWRONSKI

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, ELAB, PINT, PFOR, PO

SUBJ: COMMENTS OF AFM MEMBER CAPT. JOAO PEDRO ROSA

REF: STATE 68999 (NOTAL)

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SUMMARY: CONVERSATION WITH CAPTAIN ROSA FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM THE UNITED STATES SHOWS HE IS DESIROUS OF IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND "MAINSTREAM" OF AFM OFFICERS. HE IS OPTIMISTIC THAT ELECTED PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WILL CHOOSE TO REMAIN IN NATO. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING COMMENTS WERE MADE BY CAPTAIN JOAO PEDRO TOMAZ ROSA TO LABATT FOLLOWING ROSA'S RETURN FROM MARCH 1974 PARTIAL LEADER GRANT TRAVEL TO U.S.:

(A) ROSA MAINTAINS HE STILL REPRESENTS "MAINLINE" OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) IN CONTRAST TO "FRINGE ELEMENTS" FURTHER LEFT. AFM CONTINUES TO BE PRIMARILY MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO PROMOTE SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ELIMINATE PREVIOUS ABUSE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POWER OF OLIGARCHY. NATIONALIZATION OF BANKS WAS DEATH BLOW TO REMNENTS OF OLD REGIME.

(B) HIS VISIT TO U.S. WAS MORE SUBSTANTIAL THAN WAS LABOR MINISTER COSTA MARTINS' VISIT TO USSR. VISIT WAS USEFUL IN SHOWING TO OTHERS IN AFM WHO SHARE HIS ORIENTATION THAT TRAVEL TO U.S. IS ACCEPTABLE AND HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY PUBLIC AS EVIDENCE THAT AFM IS INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING TIES NOT ONLY WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES BUT WITH WEST AS WELL.

(C) AS RESULT OF HIS SUCCESSFUL VISIT, ROSA SEES GOOD PROSPECTS FOR VISITS BY OTHER MEMBERS OF AFM FOLLOWING ELECTIONS OF APRIL 25. BELIEVES SUCH CONTACTS IMPORTANT TO DISPEL MISCONCEPTIONS OF THOSE AFM OFFICERS WHO DO NOT HAVE ADVANTAGE OF ROSA'S UNIVERSITY AND MILITARY STAFF BACKGROUND. ALLEGATIONS OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN PORTUGAL ARE BELIEVED BY SOME AFM OFFICERS BUT HE AND MOST OTHERS KNOW BETTER. PERHAPS "ONE OR ANOTHER" OF OFFICERS IN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ARE MEMBERS OF COMMUNIST PARTY BUT MOST ARE JUST POLITICALLY INEXPERIENCED AFTER 48 YEARS OF DICTATORSHIP. HE AND REST OF AIR FORCE OFFICERS WOULD UNHESITATINGLY TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST ANY COMMUNIST ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER GOVERNMENT.

(D) EMPHASIZED THAT QUESTION OF PORTUGAL'S CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP IN NATO IS OUTSIDE COMPETENCE OF AFM AND CAN ONLY BE DECIDED AFTER ELECTION OF A GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PORTUGUESE PEOPLE. ROSA BELIEVES THAT SOCIALISTS AND PPD TOGETHER WILL OBTAIN MAJORITY IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, MDP RUNNING THIRD. WHILE THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE CONSERVATIVE CDS WILL PROBABLY EACH RECEIVE 10 PERCENT. RESULT OF SUCH ELECTION WOULD BE FAVORABLE TO PORTUGAL REMAINING IN NATO.

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(E) BELITTLED FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES' TALK ABOUT THE "THIRD WORLD," SAYING PORTUGAL HAS NOTHING IN COMMON WITH ARABS. THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WITH WHICH PORTUGAL SHOULD IDENTIFY IN FUTURE ARE FORMER COLONIES OF MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA. GOP POLICY IS CORRECT IN LETTING MPLA AND FNLA FIGHT IT OUT IN ANGOLA.

(F) DECREES LAW ESTABLISHING SINGLE LABOR CONFEDERATION NOT YET PROMULGATED AS NEITHER AFM NOR ANY POLITICAL PARTY PUSHING

FOR ISSUANCE PRIOR TO CONSTITUENT ELECTIONS. COMMUNIST PARTY CONTENT TO DELAY, AS LAW CALLS FOR UNION ELECTIONS WHICH COULD WEAKEN PRESENT PCP CONTROL OF INTERSINDICAL. AFM CONTENT TO COOPERATE WITH COMMUNISTS ON THIS ISSUE AS COMMUNISTS ARE PROMOTING A NO-STRIKE POLICY, WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH AFM DESIRES TO MAINTAIN LABOR PEACE.

(G) VISIT SHOWED THAT U.S. HAS SYSTEM OF SOCIAL BENEFITS WHICH PUTS COMMUNIST COUNTRIES TO SHAME, A COMPARISON BASED ON HIS EARLIER TRAVEL TO HUNGARY. RECOGNIZING U.S. EXPERTISE, HE OFFERED TO FACILITATE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL VISITS BY U.S. EXPERTS FOLLOWING ELECTION. ROSA DEPRECATED "OVERLY DIRECT, SIMPLISTIC" APPROACH OF MINISTER COSTA MARTINS TO PROBLEMS AND PLAYED UP IMPORTANCE OF HIS OWN DUAL ROLE IN MINISTRIES OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS AND LABOR.

2. COMMENT: ROSA VISIT HAS BROKEN ICE FOR FUTURE VISITS BY AFM OFFICERS. ROSA'S REACTIONS TO HIS TRIP UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE AND UTILITY OF THE U.S. IN GETTING MORE AFM LEADERS TO THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES.
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